

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 1B and 23C. In Figure 1B, it is proposed the delta L and corresponding symbol be removed as indicated by the red cross-through. In Figure 23C, reference numeral 204 has been added.

Attachment: Annotated Sheets Showing Changes

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 14 and 23 were indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability. Claims 14 and 23 have been amended accordingly and should be in condition for allowance. Additionally, claims 2-4, 11, 12, 25, 26 and 37-43 were withdrawn from further consideration, and the remaining pending claims were rejected. Furthermore, objections were set forth with respect to the drawings and the specification.

Upon entering this Reply and Amendment, claims 10, 14 and 23 stand amended, claims 2-4, 12, 25 and 26 remain withdrawn, claims 5, 6, 16-21 and 35-54 are canceled without prejudice, and claims 1, 7-10, 13-15, 22-24 and 27-34 remain pending. All claim amendments are fully supported throughout the specification and figures of the pending application.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) for failure to include certain reference signs and characters referenced in the specification. Accordingly, proposed amendments have been made to the drawings and are marked in red on the attached drawing sheets. Upon approval of the proposed changes, corrected, formal drawings will be submitted.

With respect to the specification, the Examiner objected to the form of the Abstract and to language in the "Cross Reference to Related Applications " section of the specification. Accordingly, amendments to the specification have been made in line with the Examiner's comments, and the objection is believed overcome.

Objections also were made with respect to claims 10 and 23 based on certain formalities. Those claims have been amended according to the Examiner's comments, and the objection is believed overcome.

Claims 32-34 were rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as anticipated by the Schetky et al. reference, US Publication No.: 2002/0046840. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application and the Schetky et al. reference both are based on a US provisional application filed on January 24, 2001. The Schetky et al. reference also sets forth in its "Related US Application Data" section that it is a non-provisional of Provisional Application No.: 60/242, 276, filed October 20, 2000. However, this earlier filed provisional application does not contain disclosure that supports the Examiner's rejection of the subject claims. Accordingly, the Schetky et al. reference is not available as prior art under 35 USC 102(e), and the rejection should be withdrawn.

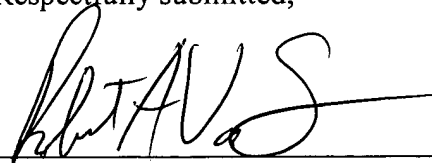
Claims 1, 7-10, 13, 15, 22, 24 and 27-31 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as unpatentable over the Schetky et al. reference in view of the Lohbeck reference, US Patent No.: 5,984,568. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, the Schetky et al. reference is not available as prior art to support a rejection of the currently pending claims. Furthermore, the Lohbeck reference does not provide adequate disclosure to support the rejection under 35 USC 103(a). Accordingly, the rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-4, 7-9 and 41-43 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as unpatentable over claims 1-9 and 20-24 of US Patent No.: 6,648,071. Although several of these claims currently are not pending in the present application, Applicants would be willing to file a terminal disclaimer upon indication of allowance.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the pending claims are believed in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes certain amendments are necessary to clarify the present claims or if the Examiner wishes to resolve other issues by way of a telephone conference, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert A. Van Someren', written over a horizontal line.

Robert A. Van Someren
Reg. No. 36,038

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